

Good evening Kevin,

Thanks for your kind words and encouragement.

I was in fact in council chambers the evening you gave the presentation with your "wait and plant or plant and wait" catch phrase. The sentiment made sense then and it makes sense now. I also recall the Trees Canada one off planting around town.

My interest would be to plant native species and I have an aversion to monoculture. As the point was made at the candidate's debate local expertise is something to value and engage.

I don't know of a specific mechanism as such right now that would seek out stakeholder input but I would be happy to incorporate an urban forestry line item into future town budgets. I think that gas tax rebates for instance would be a good source of funds for the ongoing project and would work to alleviate the impact of emissions on our common future.

I think both the aesthetic and environmental benefits make good sense for all involved and appreciate how difficult it can be for some residents to understand the value of such investments without an obvious, common sense, cost-benefit analysis evaluation. So be it; we'll work for it anyway. Even if we need to articulate it as a part of a flood mitigation strategy.

I hope this helps you get a sense for where I would fall on the issue and would be happy to champion the project.

Thanks again for reaching out,  
Brian